

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). A method of determining which types of status information to extract from a monitored device with a plurality of communication protocols communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

selecting a communication protocol among [[a]] the plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the monitored device;

retrieving, from a first memory, an information associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the information associated with the selected communication protocol includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the monitored device using the selected communication protocol, wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols;

determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the monitored device through a second protocol;

if the determining step determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the information associated with the selected communication protocol is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory;

if (1) the determining step determines that the type of status information is not present in the second memory, or (2) if the determining step determines that the type of status

information is present in the second memory, but the checking step determines that the weight of the status information is greater than the corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory, accessing the monitored device using the selected communication protocol and the information for extracting the ~~device contained in the information~~ to obtain the status information.

2 (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
repeating the determining, checking, and accessing steps for each type of status information contained in the information associated with the selected communication protocol.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
repeating the selecting, retrieving, determining, checking, and accessing steps for each protocol of the plurality of communication protocols

4 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:  
determining if the type of status information is present in a status information map in the second memory, the status information map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a status information type, a status information value, and a status information weight.

5 (Original). The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting step comprises:  
selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

6 (Canceled).

7 (Currently Amended). A system for determining which types of status information to extract from a monitored device with a plurality of communication protocols communicatively coupled to a network, comprising:

means for selecting a communication protocol among [[a]] the plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the monitored device;

means for retrieving, from a first memory, an information associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the information associated with the selected communication protocol includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the monitored device using the selected communication protocol, wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols;

means for determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the monitored device through a second protocol;

means for checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the information associated with the selected communication protocol is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory, when the means for determining determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory;

means for accessing the monitored device using the selected communication protocol and the information for extracting ~~the device contained in the information~~ to obtain the status information, if (1) the means for determining determines that the type of status information is

not present in the second memory, or (2) if the means for determining determines that the type of status information is present in the second memory, but the means for checking determines that the weight of the status information is greater than the corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory.

8 (Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the means for determining comprises: means for determining if the type of status information is present in a status information map in the second memory, the status information map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a status information type, a status information value, and a status information weight.

9 (Original). The system of claim 7, wherein the means for selecting comprises: means for selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

10 (Canceled).

11 (Currently Amended). A computer readable storage medium encoded with instructions, which when executed by a computer causes to the computer to implement a method for determining which types of status information to extract from a monitored device with a plurality of communication protocols communicatively coupled to a network, the method comprising:

selecting a communication protocol among [[a]] the plurality of communication protocols used to extract status information from the monitored device;  
retrieving, from a first memory, an information associated with the selected communication protocol, wherein the information associated with the selected

communication protocol includes at least a type of status information, a weight of the status information, and information for extracting the type of status information from the monitored device using the selected communication protocol, wherein the weight of the status information indicates a relative informative value of the status information with respect to status information of a same type extracted using another of the plurality of communication protocols;

    determining if the type of status information is present in a second memory, wherein the second memory comprises status information previously extracted from the monitored device through a second protocol;

    checking whether the weight of the status information stored in the information associated with the selected communication protocol is greater than a corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory, when the instructions for determining determine that the type of status information is present in the second memory;

    accessing the monitored device using the selected communication protocol and the information for extracting ~~the device contained in the information~~ to obtain the status information, if (1) the instructions for determining determine that the type of status information is not present in the second memory, or (2) if the instructions for determining determine that the type of status information is present in the second memory, but the instructions for checking determine that the weight of the status information is greater than the corresponding weight associated with the status information of the same type stored in the second memory.

12 (Currently Amended). The computer readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:

repeating the determining, the checking, and the accessing for each type of status information contained in the information associated with the selected communication protocol.

13 (Previously Presented). The computer readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the method further comprises:

repeating the selecting, the retrieving, the determining, checking, and the accessing for each protocol of the plurality of communication protocols

14 (Previously Presented). The computer readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the determining comprises:

determining if the type of status information is present in a status information map in the second memory, the status information map having at least one entry, wherein each entry includes a status information type, a status information value, and a status information weight.

15 (Previously Presented). The computer readable storage medium of claim 11, wherein the selecting comprises:

selecting a communication protocol among SNMP, HTTP, and FTP.

16 (Canceled).